

THE MEDIUM

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THE VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AT MISSISSAUGA

SEPTEMBER 20, 1999

Residence fights drug abuse

New policy meant to protect students

By MARK BUDGELL

UTM Residence administrators unveiled a new policy to fight drug and alcohol abuse this year.

Some residence students are concerned about the new policy.

According to the policy (see right column for copy) sent to residence students, residence administrators can enter and search any UTM house or room at anytime without the occupant's consent. Students can be ejected from residence if dons or residence administrators suspect they are using drugs. UTM Residence will notify the parents of students who create a risk for themselves or others through physical violence, binge drinking, alcohol poisoning, public intoxication, vandalism, harassment, and assault.

Fourth-year student, Jessica Franzen, is afraid students may be punished for minor offences.

"Everybody in first year binge drinks," said Franzen. "And, every-



The new and shiny Phase six residence comes with a tougher drug and alcohol policy. There won't be any drunken sailors in this pond.

body is publicly intoxicated because they walk from pub to their house. I think it is ridiculous that they are going to call your parents. Everybody here is eighteen or older."

Mike Lavelle, residence director, said the policy is only meant to target and protect students who are abusing drugs or alcohol. He said that this means only two or three per cent of the student population.

"There has to be some sort of limi-

tation to what we can turn a blind eye to," said Lavelle. "I hope what we're doing here is showing some leadership in the university community. I think it is lacking."

"I don't want to take responsibility for anybody's life unless I've done everything to prevent a fatality."

Lavelle said the new policy is beneficial to students who may only abuse alcohol once, because it involves an intermediary step - noti-

fying the students' parents - before ejection from residence. Under the old policy, students may be rejected from residence for their first serious offense.

According to Lavelle, parents of frosh welcomed the idea.

"Before I was even through [explaining it] they were clapping," said Lavelle. "They want to know."

"I can't understand how anybody

POLICY continued on page 3

The new drug and alcohol policy at UTM

"AS OF SEPTEMBER 7TH, 1999..."

"The possession and/or use of illegal drugs are prohibited at UTM Residence. Residence students are responsible for ensuring that they themselves or their guests do not possess and/or use illegal drugs on the premises. Failure to comply will result in immediate ejection from UTM residence, with the added possibility of criminal prosecution. In addition, residence administrators along with Residence dons may enter and search any house or room at UTM residence at any time, without the occupant's consent. Finally, suspicion of drug abuse at UTM residence also warrants immediate ejection.

"NEW ALCOHOL POLICY AT UTM RESIDENCE

"AS OF SEPTEMBER 7TH..."

"The alcohol policy at UTM Residence consists of alcohol-related warnings that a Residence student may receive from a UTM Residence don or administrator. Alcohol-related warnings will be issued to Residence students for a number of reasons: Creating a risk for themselves or others through physical violence, binge drinking, alcohol poisoning, public intoxication, vandalism, harassment, and assault or other substantial infraction are all alcohol-related incidents that require alcohol-related warnings. We will notify the parents of students who violate UTM's alcohol policy. Students who are found guilty of two serious alcohol violations will be suspended from Residence for the remainder of the year."

EPUS/APUS negotiations stalled

By MARK BUDGELL

The Erindale Part-time Undergraduate Students union has suspended negotiations concerning an agreement with its parent association, the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students, that would give EPUS half of the total incidental fees paid by each student. Currently, EPUS only receives \$4 of the total \$20 paid by part-timers at Erindale. The rest goes to APUS.

The talks, which began last year, were suspended recently because of a clause in the agreement that could have EPUS paying a quarter of the salary of a professional arbitrator if disagreements about the policy arose in the future.

The two unions have a history of feuding. Last year, EPUS initiated the latest round of talks to get a higher percentage of money from APUS. They decided that it was unfair for Erindale to receive only four dollars of the twenty that each part-time UTM student paid. They spent the year negotiating with APUS for a

half of the incidental fees payment and threatened to hold a referendum if a deal was not reached. APUS stalled until the end of the year, and finally told EPUS they would not agree to a deal. It was too late for EPUS to call for a referendum, so the issue was left unresolved.

This year the two unions agreed that Erindale should receive \$10 from each student, but EPUS refused to sign the agreement because of the arbitration clause.

EPUS president Jen O'Sullivan said paying a portion of an arbitrator's fee could bankrupt EPUS. She said if the clause isn't changed it could result in EPUS calling for a referendum to separate from APUS.

"EPUS could be held responsible for a whole whopping amount of money. It could bankrupt us or seriously affect our presence on campus."

—Jennifer O'Sullivan

According to O'Sullivan, the origi-

ARBITRATION continued on page 4



EPUS president Jennifer O'Sullivan. EPUS, also known as PTS@UTM, is battling APUS for a larger portion of UTM's part-time student union fees. She also has to make sure that EPUS doesn't have to share the cost of a professional arbitrator, if it's ever needed.

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Quote of the week:
"I don't care, but I don't want Mickey Mouse."

—Manon LePaven



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Policy strong on rhetoric

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can intellectually argue against this," said lawyer Robert Marcantonio during a meeting with the dons to explain the legalities of the new policy, "because it gives students a second chance [for alcohol offences]."

According to Marcantonio there is no legal premise that would prohibit residence officials from notifying parents of student offenders.

"There is absolutely no legal premise, as far as I know, that would prohibit the administration from communicating with your parents," said Marcantonio. "There is no legal premise to stop anyone from communicating with anybody if it is true."

Marcantonio added that "98 or 99 per cent of the student population won't even be subjected to this."

Les McCormick, dean of student affairs, agrees with the policy but said, "I've got a feeling that the rhetoric of that [the policy] is stronger than the actual fact. There

would be a thorough investigation before anything was done."

"I think the intention is to protect most students from one or two students and those one or two students from themselves."

McCormick said that last year there were at least two instances of near fatal alcohol poisoning on campus.

"I've got a feeling that the rhetoric of that [the policy] is stronger than the actual fact. There would be a thorough investigation before anything was done"

-Les McCormick

"I believe that there were at least two cases that were close to terminal," said McCormick. "And, those are those are only the ones we know about."

Head don, Christina Hosein, said there were also problems with illicit drug abuse on campus last year.

"There were people using drugs last year and it caused a lot of problems and residence students wished something was done about it."

She also pointed out the difference between the policy's use of the word suspicion, as opposed to rumor. According to Hosein a suspicion is a complaint about a specific incident.

"If a roommate comes and complains about something specifically, that's a suspicion," said Hosein.

First-year student Peter Chan is disappointed with the policy.

"They're hypocritical. They tell us we're not children in classes and they won't hold our hand through school. But as soon as they talk about alcohol we're children again."

Second-year biology student, Jenn Hogg, said the policy may result in more offences.

"I think that if they expect us to behave as adults they shouldn't treat us like we're in kindergarten. I think they are going way overboard. The more they restrict us, the more we will disobey."

New cultural club

BY MARK BUDGELL

There is a new club in town.

U of T students have introduced The Universal Cultural Students Association (UCSA) to UTM, and this club has a unique mandate: to encourage communication between students from all cultural backgrounds and to give them resources to succeed academically. The club, originally founded in Los Angeles in 1997, migrated north to Vancouver and Montreal, and now has a home in Toronto and Mississauga.

UTM student Sartaj Dhillon, UCSA vice-president of finance, said that the club will play an important role in a city that is as diverse as Toronto.

"The club provides a forum," said Dhillon, "where you can celebrate cultural diversity, and this is important in a city as culturally diverse as Toronto."

Dhillon said that UCSA stresses networking as an essential element to social, academic, and career success. The club will be a medium where students can establish networks between themselves, obtain past exams and solutions to problems for their classes, and work on career prospects.

"Our main goal is networking," said Dhillon. "I think that as students we have to stress network-

ing if we are to succeed."

This November, the club will offer the first ever international recruiting programme at U of T. Representatives from major firms like Chase Manhattan, Salomon Smith & Barney, J.P. Morgan will be at U of T to scout for prospective employees.

According to Dhillon, the club will provide members with practice writing in MCAT, and PCAT tests, as well as offering career counselling, and educational lecturers.

The club also holds a Cultural Bash, club trips, sports tournaments and provides students with discounts on food and beverages purchased on campus.

Dhillon said that managing a club as diverse as UCSA may be a challenge, but it is worth the effort.

"It's a challenge we're willing to live up to," said Dhillon.

Currently, the club has about 40 members. Any UTM students interested in joining can join during Clubs Week, this week in the Meeting Place.

"The club provides a forum where you can celebrate cultural diversity, and this is important in a city as culturally diverse as Toronto."

-Saraj Dhillon

Internet for undergrads

BY MARK BUDGELL

ProfessorJones.com, Canada's first web portal aimed at post-secondary students, and SNS/Assure, Canada's largest third party credit card processing service, have formed a successful partnership by offering discounted textbooks over the Internet to post-secondary students.

SNS/Assure received hundreds of orders during the site's first three days of operation. The company was responsible for secure processing of credit card transactions, and overall project management of setting up the site.

"ProfessorJones.com went live on

Tuesday, September 7 and order information and credit card transactions arrived immediately at SNS/Assure for secure processing," said Craig Harris, senior business director of electronic commerce at SNS/Assure. "We are very excited that SNS/Assure was able to provide ProfessorJones.com's clients with an unsurpassed level of convenience and security."

Alex de Bold, president and chief executive officer of ProfessorJones.com, is not surprised by the response.

"Our Web portal is designed to deliver both saving and fun to post-secondary students, meeting all

their academic and recreational needs. The initial results confirm the viability of the ProfessorJones.com concept."

DeBold said he chose to partner with SNS/Assure "because they provided a complete web-based electronic commerce solution for my business-to-consumer model."

In the recent future the portal will also provide such services as: the ability to organize virtual study-group sessions; career and employment information; an electronic bill board; a classified ad service; CDs and downloadable music in MP3 format; and, pay-per-use video games.



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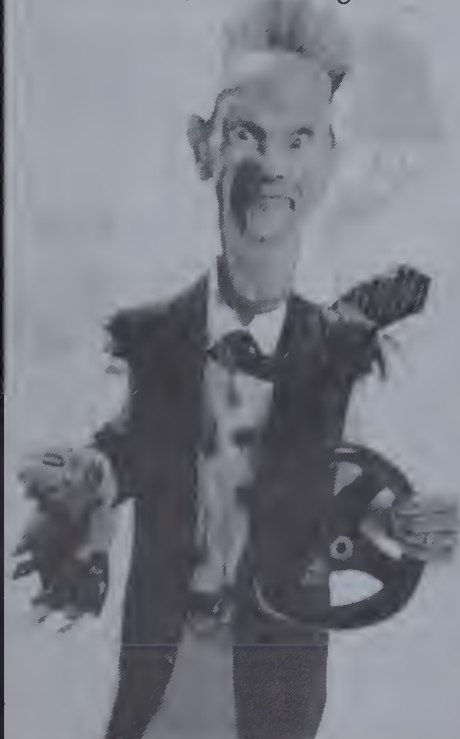
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Arbitration costly

continued from front

nal draft of the agreement named the vice-provost as arbitrator, but EPUS wanted someone who could be more objective. As a result APUS added the arbitrator clause. EPUS felt the change was too extreme.

"Someone within the university would be free," said O'Sullivan. "We suggested a couple of people who could act as arbitrators, but it was vetoed by executives downtown."

The clause also allows each side the right to veto a named arbitrator twice. O'Sullivan said that this could result in a biased arbitrator being hired.

"We could be stuck with someone who is absolutely biased," said O'Sullivan.

APUS president Manon LePaven said that the situation between the two unions is like that of Quebec and Canada.

"We're like Quebec and Canada," said LePaven, "we need each other to stay alive."

LePaven said that she is open to suggestions that would resolve the arbitration clause.

"I don't care, but I don't want Mickey Mouse. I want somebody in arbitration who knows what they are doing."

LePaven added that the two unions should be professional enough to work out their disagreements without ever having to resort to arbitration.

According to LePaven, the threat of referendum, and ultimately autonomy,

is not a serious issue.

"I think they would have to be approved by Governing Council. I don't think Governing Council would do that," said LePaven who also pointed out that the union would lose its health plan.

Last year's vice-president, Glen Hammond, who helped initiate negotiations, said that Erindale should receive half of the incidental fees because APUS spends the money on funding several services that don't benefit UTM part-time students.

"My feeling is that, apart from the health plan and lobbying, we're basically doing everything ourselves," said Hammond. He said he felt that \$10 was a fair amount for unions to receive, considering that APUS provided a health plan and lobbied to the government in the interest of all part-time students.

In the future, Hammond said Erindale would be able to operate without ties to APUS.

"The way Erindale is growing I think we could be independent," said Hammond. "It is possible, and it can be done, but at this point we don't have the staff."

New dean knows UTM

BY TRACY MONIZ

As a student, educator, and present administrator, Dr. Gary Crawford, UTM's new dean of social sciences, certainly knows the many sides of U of T. Having taught anthropology at Erindale since 1979, Crawford celebrates his twentieth year on campus this year.

"Seize the opportunity." That's the dean's advice for undergraduates. "Even if it doesn't fit into your master plan, seize every opportunity, because it can lead to life experiences and changes whose importance you can't imagine at the time. I did and here I am." This was Crawford's personal experience as an undergraduate in anthropology and biology at U of T. "It's what I learned and the advice I now give," he says.

Crawford recalls his undergraduate years as being "incredibly influential." He went on a research trip to Japan with one of his professors that changed the course of his undergraduate life, and helped to shape the course of his career. "I have been living on and off in Japan for the last 25 years."

Crawford is an archaeologist specializing in paleoethnobotany. "I study the relationship between plants and people in the ancient past."

Of his Japanese experience, Crawford says, "It's as close as I will come in my lifetime to visiting another planet. Spending so much time there has affect-

ed my behavior. My ability to listen and understand how a group feels have all been enhanced," he says. Crawford feels that these qualities will, in turn, benefit him in his new role as dean. "It forces one to break out of a European thinking process," he says. As far as language is concerned: "My Japanese is functional. I know enough to keep me out of trouble."

In the meantime, Crawford's administrative duties as dean keep him "incredibly busy" and his schedule "incredibly hectic." "It encourages mental flexibility," he says. "In a matter of 15 minutes, I have to deal with subjects completely unrelated to one another - from a hiring issue, to being interviewed by a reporter from The Medium, to an enrollment issue."

What will the future of Social Sciences at UTM look like? The main focus is to produce a plan of action leading up to the year 2004. "Nothing is final yet, but I definitely want it to be creative," he says. "I'm all for creative ideas, stimulating new programmes, and involving unrelated disciplines in new ways and with flexibility," Crawford says.

With its size and diversity of students and faculty, Crawford believes U of T to be at the forefront in terms of the opportunities available to students. "That is the thing about undergraduate education at U of T that has always impressed me," he said. "I had no idea in my first year of



Gary Crawford, UTM's new dean of social sciences.

university that I would combine anthropology and biology. I don't know if I could've done that anywhere but at U of T." In relation to his own undergraduate experience in the early 1970s, Crawford believes there are more constraints today on student programmes in terms of defining programme requirements today. "The Social Sciences are so eclectic. We have to build an understanding about issues such as racism and cultural diversity in the context of academics," says Crawford. "The Social Sciences are so important at the undergraduate level - from the more science-oriented sectors such as geography and anthropology, to organizational areas such as management."

Will Dean Crawford miss being in the classroom? "Absolutely," he says.

UTM renovates

BY HEATHER MORGAN

The library and geography department upgraded their computer facilities during the summer.

Over the past four months the geography department renovated two rooms in the South Building into computer labs.

The library renovated their reference computer section to provide greater accessibility for students and longer life for its computers.

The library removed the carpet in the area around the librarian's desk, replaced it with rubber flooring, and added ten new computers.

According to Head Librarian, Cathy Matthews, the renovations addressed accessibility problems for handicapped students and librarians, and protected computers from damaged caused by dust.

Fourth-year social science student Sujith Reddy is pleased with the changes.

"It was a good idea. It gives another place to access the computer and it's easier for people with wheelchairs."

The library renovations cost about \$75,000.00 and were paid from the operating budget. Matthews assures that services provided to students did not suffer as a result.

The geography department expanded their computer lab into two rooms across from the Hitachi lab.

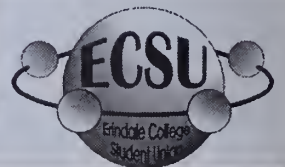
"This is the beginning of a real win-win situation," said Ken Turner, geography technician. "This is an opportunity to do a better job of teaching for the sake of the students." The changes made have enabled the geography department to separate an existing computer lab into two rooms, dividing their intermediate and high level computing facilities, while keeping sufficient lab space.

The deal is part of an overall renovation of laboratories through the third and fourth floor teaching and research wings of the South Building. The total cost of renovations is \$400,000. A breakdown of expenses is not available at this time.

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EPUS better alone

Relations between APUS and EPUS can't get worse than they are now. Right now, APUS doesn't take EPUS seriously. Erindale students pay twenty dollars to their part-time union, but only four dollars reach Erindale after APUS takes its cut.

Last year, EPUS tried to negotiate an equitable transfer payment with APUS. EPUS even threatened to separate if they couldn't reach a fair settlement. Negotiations dragged on. The two unions appeared to reach a compromise, but APUS refused to sign the contract at the last meeting of the year. By then it was too late for EPUS to call a referendum to separate.

So here EPUS is again, trying to negotiate with an organization that for years has been reluctant to "pay" fair. This year, APUS and EPUS are disputing a clause in the new agreement that will make EPUS pay 25 per cent of the cost of a professional arbitrator. Even 25 per cent of the huge cost of a professional arbitrator would bankrupt EPUS. This is unacceptable.

We think that EPUS should separate from APUS. UTM is large enough to support EPUS. Considering that EPUS has lived off of a four dollar per student fee for years, they should be able to do more if they collect the full twenty dollars per student fee.

APUS isn't a presence at UTM. They said they've tried to come out here to make a speech about the services available at St. George, but why bother? EPUS could make the same speech if it wanted to. Besides, we want those services available on our own campus.

If EPUS separates, they won't have access to APUS' health care plan. If a health plan is the only reason to stay with APUS, then APUS is really not worth much. We think EPUS can find a reasonable solution. A separate plan might cost more, but there's always a price to pay for independence.

If EPUS separates, it will have to lobby for itself. This isn't impossible either.

Maybe this year's APUS executive will see the injustice of the current agreement. Maybe APUS will give more back to Erindalians and eliminate the arbitrator clause so that future EPUS councils don't go belly up, but we're not going to bet our twenty bucks on it.

Taking it too far?

UTM Residence has written new drug and alcohol policies. We applaud UTM Residence for taking a tough stance against drug and alcohol abuse, but we think that the current wording of the policies does not pay enough attention to residents' concerns for privacy and fairness, and portrays Residence officials and dons as a lynch mob.

We don't want our fine residences overrun with potheads or alcoholics, but we don't need a S.W.A.T. team running residence, either.

Too much of the policy is vague. The policy doesn't cite which rules or laws permit Residence to enter and search a house without an occupant's consent. The policy doesn't distinguish between "abuse" and "use" — we're sure that Residence's definition of "abuse" differs from many of the residents' definitions of "abuse."

Many of the residents we talked to said that they were worried that Residence was giving themselves liberties that police don't have. After some research, we discovered that nearly all of the policies have a reasonable explanation or backing.

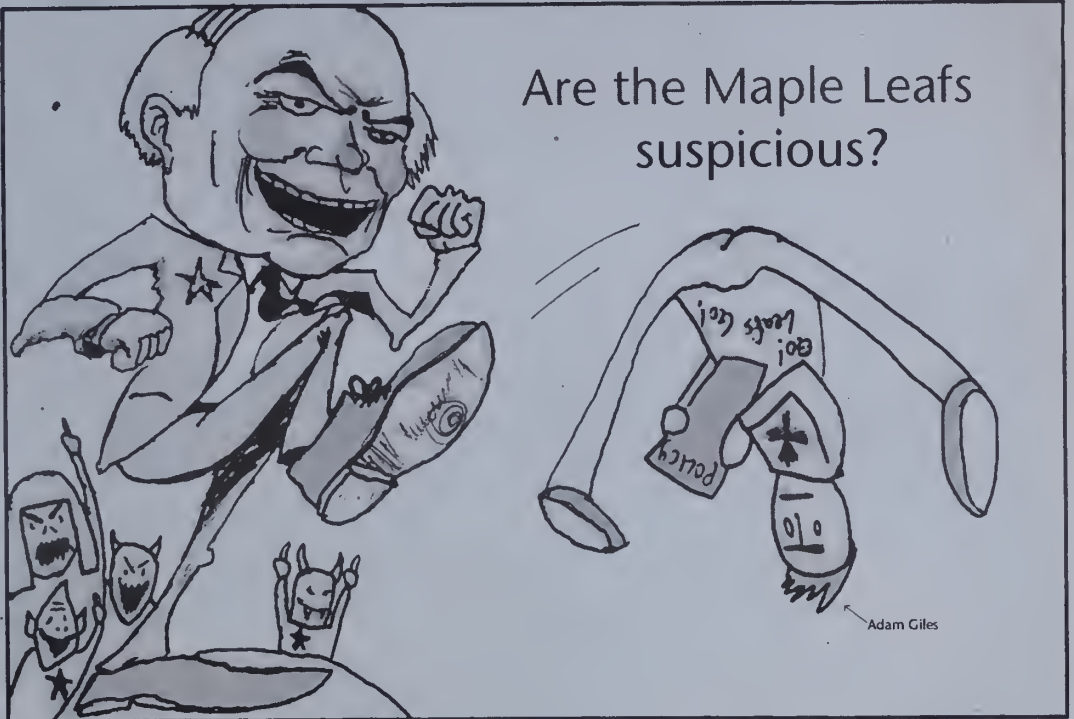
Nevertheless, even with an explanation, some of the policies need to be changed. The final line in the drug policy reads: "Finally, suspicion of drug abuse at UTM Residence also warrants immediate ejection." This goes too far. Suspicion might be enough to make an arrest, but it isn't enough to make a conviction. This policy allows for conviction without evidence. What constitutes "suspicion" anyway? Wearing a "Free the weed" T-shirt? Talking about pot? We can't be sure, and the policy doesn't make it clear what Residence defines as "suspicious."

The policy should stand on its own, without a don, a lawyer, or a news report to clarify what's really meant. UTM Residence needs to rewrite the policy so that it reflects UTM Residence's true intentions and alleviates student concerns.

The Medium is published weekly by Medium II Publications, a non-profit, incorporated student organization. The opinions expressed within are those of the writers and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of Medium II Publications. The Medium's mandate is to inform students of local and national concerns, and give Erindale College students an opportunity to practice journalism. Retail and community advertising provided exclusively by The Mississauga News. National advertising provided exclusively by Campus Network. The Medium plays Les Paul air guitars and Sabian air cymbals exclusively.

The fire alarm went! Stop nagging! Adam's ears bleed! Mark is an angry libertarian! Cyrus is a libertine! Richie finally fulfilled his fantasy... to salute Robin Williams with a proud "Oh, captain, my captain." Now, if he could only get George Lucas in bed! Jea understands writing — write about what you know: all night parties and bad music. Mario likes Greek? Paul Stanley's back! Who wants to go with me? Should I rent a bus? Chris Jackson: aren't you going to respond to last week's blurb contest? Hot Prizes! We hope people like this issue. We think we're fair. I'm sure we'll get two complaints: you're too nice to Rize, you're too hard on Rize.

EDITORIAL



Letters to the Editor

Athletic user fee increase unjust

Dear editor,
Re: "Athletic fees amalgamated"

Perhaps you have found yourself at UTM's athletic office this fall with the intention of obtaining a gym membership. If so, you probably recoiled in horror when you learned that the membership fee was increased to \$50. The athletics department made this decision during the summer without any recourse to general student opinion. And if this despotic decision disturbs you, it is likely (if you are a returning student) that you are even more outraged at the fact that you are being forced to pay again for something that your incidental fees already paid for.

I admit that money is needed for new equipment and the like. Nevertheless, the means to obtain it were underhanded. Athletics justifies its arbitrariness by comparing itself to other universities, claiming that the membership levy allows for inexpensive access to Erindale's gym while remaining competitive. But this is entirely beside the point being made here. If that is the best explanation athletics can offer in response to this complaint, then logically, they are resting on unstable ground. Perhaps students could have been informed so that a discussion could take place. Apparently, bureaucrats do not have time for trivialities such as principles. So,

however cleverly worded a rebuttal Athletics may attempt to write to this letter, it cannot dispute the fact that it has done an injustice to those students who enjoy exercising and have already paid for the privilege of doing so. A refund, or at least a sincere apology, would suffice.

Thank you.
David Fortino

Reaping revenue

Dear editor,
Re: "Athletic fees amalgamated"

I find it ludicrous that a programme coordinator at Athletics would suggest that this fees amalgamation "translates into savings for the students."

According to their own admission they intend to use the generated revenue to pay for the upgrade of the facilities.

Give Erindale students credit for having some common sense. If this amalgamation generates extra revenue, then students are paying more, and not saving.

p.s. The Medium forgot about AGSAE in their UTM dictionary (Erindale Standard Edition). AGSAE \ae-g-sae\ n 1: Association of Graduate Students at Erindale.

Francis B. Panosyan
AGSAE (Co) President

VIBE's "deejaying" a misunderstanding

To the Editor,

This letter is just to clear up a few misunderstandings in regards to the presence of VIBE Radio (Radio Erindale), Saturday, September 11 at Frosh Week. VIBE Radio was invited to do a sound show here on campus. They were not intended to deejay for the event.

Sorry for the confusion.

Lisa Capobianco
College Affairs Commissioner,
ECSU

Letters to the editor...

An easy way to get involved.

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Education funding brightens future

Welcome to 1999, where tuition rates are the highest they have ever been. Society wants students to be more knowledgeable to help the development of Canada; however, a university education has become a luxury. A growing number of people can't afford school.

Opinion

BY MONICA BHARADWAJ

Both the federal and provincial governments' indifference to the rising cost of post-secondary education is appalling. Governments have enacted legislation, like deregulation of tuition and the removal of rent control, leading to increases in tuition and rent. As well, the governments' attempts to provide

students with financial support are pathetic. It would be nice if the governments would recognize that they cannot make university students pay the same amount as the rest of society. University students study full time, and are therefore unable, for the most part, to work full-time and make enough money to pay for school. Many of us are breaking our backs working, and earning a degree to gain important skills to help this country develop. The personal gain that a student achieves from university is not self-indulgent. What is so wrong with trying to better your standard of living and in the process the whole country as well?

In addition, a university education is merely a stepping stone for many students who continue on to graduate or

professional schools to become professionals themselves. After all, this country needs physicians, lawyers, accountants, teachers, and business administrators, especially when studies indicate that a massive amount of Canadian professionals are lured to the States by endless lucrative possibilities.

For the meantime, many students will be forced to graduate with large debts while others will have no choice but to forego a university education simply because they lack the finances. It is a shame that the government and taxpayers cannot see the advantages of putting more support and funding into post-secondary education. They are holding back development.

The future of this country depends on a well educated citizenry.

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The Rave Scene

What is a rave?

An all-night dance party, which occasionally can be illicit, where techno or house music is played. People who attend a rave, otherwise known as ravers, pay a cover charge in order to attend the party, which is held in a covert location.

Origins of the rave

Some cultural historians believe that the all-night 'rave' party has roots in the Shamanism of Inuit and Siberian society, the 'pow-wows' of some native North-American cultures, and the religious festivals and drumming circles common to cultural groups in Africa, Central and South America. Raves also resemble the love-ins and acid tests of the 1960s. Rave history can be traced back arbitrarily, depending on the point of view of the person searching the roots of the modern rave, as music has been used as a tool for spiritual enhancement for generations. Raves take older concepts and modernize them through the use of technology.

The first 'official' raves in Western society took place in Manchester, England and the Spanish region of Ibiza between 1987 and 1988. Germans (particularly Berliners) embraced the rave during the same period. The first raves in North America took place during the early nineties in the liberal city of San Francisco, California, and spread to Los Angeles, until eventually the whole of California caved in to the popularity of the rave party. As these raves gained popularity, the rave scene spread throughout the Midwest thanks to inspired DJ's from New York, Milwaukee, and Detroit. These early days of raving were ripe with illegal activities – spaces were not rented, they were broken into. Cops tracked down the locations of the parties in attempt to halt them, forcing some parties to relocate a dozen times over the course of one night. The rave scene hit its peak between the years of 1993 and 1994 in North America, while in England, rank commercialism took the novelty out of the rave scene.

What about rave music?

Both techno and house music employ electronic means, but house music occasionally makes use of live instruments. It is no coincidence that the popularity of the rave scene grew at the same time that synthesizers, drum machines, and other electronic sound equipment became cheaper and more commercially available. On average, the music played at most house parties is 130 beats per minute – closely simulating the heartbeat of the fetus in the womb. Determining the development of rave music is a confusing and daunting process, much like determining the relationships between biblical figures. Techno music was created as a combination of hip hop and electro-funk, and spawned proto-techno, detroit techno, hardcore techno, and techno/rave styles of music. (Chicago) House music and acid house music are types of music which are entities unto themselves, not to be confused with other types of music, despite the power they had over influencing different types of music. Breakbeat, inspired by hip hop and reggae, spawned jungle and darkside. Ambient, trance, tribal, progressive, and deep house, are all styles of music that seek to create an absorbing, hypnotic effect on the raver. Techno parties have stronger bass and the rhythm usually ranges between 140 and 200 beats per minute, while jungle parties play music that is closer to 175 beats per minute. Rave music is a pleasingly convoluted, continually growing barrage of permutations on a theme, and the dancing at raves mirrors the progressions and changes in the music.

The deejay plays the most essential role, as the deejay will 'spin' previously existing tracks in order to create entirely new songs or 'mixes', and keep the flow of music continually moving. The better the choice of music and the more successful the deejay is at spinning and blending the different pitches, speeds, and beats the rave music, the less disjointed the 'vibe' of the party will be. It is the deejay's job to absorb the energy and vibe of the attending crowd and send it back out to them, much the way the actor works with the audience to shape a performance.

Who is the average raver?

Although it is wrong to make gross generalizations about a group of people, particularly a group that is so proud of its individualism, the majority of ravers share undeniably common characteristics. Raving is a simple pastime, not a constant activity or lifestyle which can continue twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, unlike the hippie subculture of the 1960s. The average male raver is between the ages of 17 and 25, white, well educated and middle-class. Male ravers often wear baggy pants, and tight shirts (or sweatshirts, or they choose to go topless). Ravers claim that baggy pants are more comfortable, and easier to dance in, but many people think that is a load of bullshit.

Female ravers usually wear baby-doll dresses or tight baby T-shirts with slim-fitting or baggy pants. Both male and female ravers tend to sport round, wooden bead necklaces.

Rave culture has an affection for the childish, and this is reflected by the stuffed animal backpacks, lollipops, pacifiers, hair barrettes, and shirts emblazoned with cartoon characters that can be observed at most raves. Perhaps the rave scene is rooted in the belief that childhood was a simpler, more carefree time in people's lives.

What is the goal of a rave?

To overload the senses, generating hypnotic and blissful effects on the person attending the rave. On a basic level, raves are events designed to give people a good time. By bombarding the raver's senses, a pseudo-spiritual introspection is achieved. The guru of this seeming chaos is the rave deejay, who channels and directs the energies of the party-goers, determining the psychological and emotional experience of the rave. The slang term 'vibe' is often used to describe the atmosphere of a rave. A deejay is to a rave what a musician is to a concert, often inspiring worship from attending ravers.

What is the 'vibe' like at most raves?

The 'vibe', atmosphere, or tangible energy of the party is usually determined by the type of music that is being played, the types of drugs that are being used, the space in which the rave is being held, and the type of people who choose to attend the rave. Parties which play house music tend to be more upscale and are sometimes held overnight in clubs. The crowd acts with a measure of decorum, and will dress much the way people in a regular dance club dress. The drugs at house parties tend to be costlier ones, such as Ecstasy (MDMA) or cocaine. Alcohol is occasionally served at parties where house is played, so there tends to be an older crowd. Younger people generally flock to raves where techno music is played, and the dominant drugs of choice are crystal meth – an inexpensive, easily produced drug – or Ecstasy. Techno parties are usually held in a large, open venues, like a bingo halls or abandoned factories. The rhythm of the music played at the rave is the determining factor in the level of spirituality that the raver will achieve, as the beat of the music inspires the strength and intensity of hypnotic effects. Visual effects are rarely the most dominant component of a rave, although they are important in establishing a rave's vibe.

The cost of attendance is not an efficient indicator of how good a rave will be – in fact, the higher the cover charge, the higher the likelihood of commercial involvement – the worse the vibe of the rave. At most raves, there is a feeling of friendliness, and comradeship – the same feelings of unity people experience while sharing a spiritual or religious experience.

The rave's popularity and longevity, according to some analysts of sub-culture, is based in its strength as a Temporary Autonomous Zone (or TAZ, for short, a term coined by philosopher Hakim Bey). This means that the rave is an extremely self-sufficient subculture, whose following is not dependent on the social norms and regulations to which regular society and popular culture are bound. Essentially, the rave scene is strong and independent enough to survive unchanged in spite of significant changes in the norms and regulations of popular society and culture. The singularity of the rave subculture therefore has a profound effect on the intensity of the vibe felt at many parties.

How can you find out where the parties are?

Usually, at every rave, flyers are handed out detailing the dates and names of other raves, whose locations are to be announced over the internet or via a private telephone number. Rave flyers can also be picked up at music stores. On the day of the said rave, ravers are to phone the telephone number in order to find out the exact location of the party, as well as directions for getting there. This covert process evolved during the early days of raving, when illegal parties had to be furtively planned and executed in order to curb police intervention. Thus, the virgin raver is only able to access the rave scene via a more experienced raver. Tickets for raves are often sold at the door, and some tickets for raves can be purchased at specialty music stores. This process ensures the self-contained, underground nature, and planned spontaneity of the rave scene.

What sucks about raves?

At worst, the rave scene can be summarized as a gross denial of reality and an ephemeral, drug-induced heap of escapist, hedonistic, pagan infantilism. Sadly, over the past few years, the finger bowl of commercialism has watered down the once culturally saturated rave scene in order to accommodate a fascinated mainstream society. Worst of all, mainstream society has ushered inappropriate elements into rave culture, such as inappropriate substances like heroin or GHB, the date rape drug. (This is not to say that so-called 'soft drugs' should be considered a positive element of the rave scene). In addition, many drugs that were once considered 'soft', such as Ecstasy, are now being laced with cocaine, heroin, speed, ketamine, and other hard drugs. Many famous deejays, who first entered the rave scene out of the love of music, are now spinning for the money. Raves are becoming more committed to displaying outrageous fashion and styles than to creating a positive vibe. Rave culture is already considered mainstream culture in England and Germany, and the same fate is befalling North American rave culture. Raves have currently been crowned 'the next big thing', and from this throne, no one can be certain what 'the next big thing' will be.

-Jennifer Matotek

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

A reporter's journey:
lessons from the festival

BY RICHIE MEHTA

As my adventures at the Toronto International Film festival continued, I began to question just how good my experience was. Sure, I spoke to celebrities. Sure, I viewed high-profile films before they were released to the rest of the world. But was this adventure all worth the hours of sleep I was losing? Watching two to three films a day, living in the dark, it was getting to me.

I entered press screenings and battalion of press surrounded me. Each had his or her own boastful story to tell to show up each other, and when they weren't talking to each other they were on their cell phones (even inside the theatre).

But I trudged on in the name of faithful journalism. Whether I liked it or not, I had to watch these films so the thousands of Medium readers would be fulfilled.

Therefore, the following journal entries are dedicated to you, my loyal readers.

Day 2:

8:30 a.m.: Press screening for *Dogma*

1. Jennyhead, stole one of Richie's film festival press passes, and am streaking downtown to catch Kevin Smith's (aka Silent Bob's) latest directorial effort, *Dogma*. Critics and studios are fearing the release of this film, which tracks Smith's personal reflections and criticisms of the Catholic religion. This makes for some interesting controversy.

However, Smith's quips about Catholicism aren't controversial enough to sustain the media hype, and his view of life and religion isn't fascinating or original enough to captivate my attention for two full hours. Sure, there's a mildly interesting story, some witty dialogue, some creatively handled scenarios, but who really wants to sit and listen to someone's opinion on God, religion, and the current state of Catholicism for more than ten minutes? There is something vaguely preachy about this film, which leaches out the humour, originality, and charm that Smith is known for. Yet it is undeniable that Smith should be applauded for choosing risky subject matter and taking a different approach towards his films. Maybe the most devoted Smith fan will love this film because it has Smith's name on it, but the majority of people may walk out of this film feeling bored and unchallenged.

9:30 a.m.: Press screening for Dreamworks Pictures *American Beauty*

The film opens with a lethargic Kevin Spacey explaining his dead-end suburban life. "Look at me. Masturbating in the shower. This will be the highlight of my day."

This sets the stage for the funniest, most surprising, and most impressive film of the festival – and the year.

Spacey stars as Lester Burnham, a burnt-out salesman who lost his lust for life long ago. His wife, Carolyn (Annette Bening), also seems to have lost her way, only she hides her insecurities behind vanity. She obsessively maintains a perfect garden, wardrobe, and real estate practice. Completing this triangle is their daughter Jane (Thora Birch). She plays the typical pissed-off teenager who hates life, and, especially, her parents.

With this dark (and somewhat familiar) set-up, the film begins to deviate from

other, more conventional pieces.

Over the course of the film, Lester has a renaissance. He sees his unfulfilling sex life, his repulsive familial situation, and his tedious job as chains, and breaks them all. This triggers a chain reaction in his life, as well as in the lives of everyone surrounding him.

The film also features dead-on performances by Wes Bentley as a Ricky Fitts, a neighbor obsessed with Jane, Chris Cooper as Ricky's retired army Colonel dad, and Mena Suvari as Jane's high school friend, Angela, whom Lester begins to lust after.

What makes the film is not simply all the great performances, or first-time feature director Sam Mendes' (Broadway's *Cabaret*) attention to the actors and details, or Thomas Newman's melancholic score, but Alan Ball's script. It is his insight into the characters, whom all undergo a transformation, that the audience can relate to in every way.

At the centre of the tale is Ricky Fitts. His pastime is filming things – things that he finds beautiful. It could be a woman he sees, a paper bag in the wind, or anything that demonstrates how Nature's acts are not random, but intentional and awesome. He films anything that shows how the gift of life for each individual is more precious than anything else in the world, even jobs, your gardens, or clothing. "Anything that's beautiful," in the words of Fitts.

It's this idea that drives the film.

American Beauty does for adults what *Dead Poets Society* did for teenagers. These characters begin on a path to hell, living a life of contempt, hatred, and broken dreams, but end on the path of redemption and self-fulfillment, through tragedy. You probably have no idea what I'm talking about, but don't worry, you will.

11:30 a.m.: Q & A with Kevin Spacey and Sam Mendes

After the rousing applause for the film, actor Kevin Spacey and director Sam Mendes answered a few questions.

Dressed in a black outfit and black toque, Spacey was well-spoken, and funnier than one might expect. When asked about his character Lester, he gave an in-depth and thoughtful reply. He began by generalizing: "[So many] people hate their jobs, and want to break out and be honest in their relationships. Through a series of wake-up calls, Lester decides to test life."

The session ended on an interesting note, with Spacey offering several euphemisms for masturbating – since the act plays such a prominent role in his character's life.

Mendes then offered several interpretations of the script, and reasons for making certain aesthetic decisions.

Nolte, and Sharon Stone, centres on a group of high-school students who commit blackmail and fraud to win a fortune at the horse races. As adults, this event comes back to haunt them, ultimately halting the progress of their lives.

Bridges and Nolte may seem like an unlikely match, but the intensity and dedication of these two actors carries the film. Stone, whose role is minimal, plays a tortured, ruined woman who lives with depression. She manages to come across as

genuinely, without overacting as she's been known to in the past.

Despite the solid performances, the film isn't as effective as it could be. It is a tale about redemption, about dealing with

salesman in a small town who wakes up every day and tries to shoot himself, but fails. His cheesy TV ads have made him a local celebrity, and everyone loves him. However, the machine-like actions of everyone around him, his drug-addicted wife, his bunny-obsessed pianist son, and everyone around him who seems to be insane in this materialistic, capitalist (and every other "ist") world, are driving him to madness.

Why doesn't anyone else feel distinct emotions? Why doesn't anyone else feel restricted by the constraints of a system that holds them by the throat? These questions are drive Hoover to this madness, and we willingly follow him every step of the way.

1 p.m.: Press Conference for *Simpatico*

Jeff Bridges and Nick Nolte, and director Matthey Warchus were on hand to discuss their film, *Simpatico*. Although the film itself was not well-received, Nolte and Bridges shared relevant and meaningful ideas that had motivated them to do the project.

Nolte, the most outgoing of the group, explained one of the main concepts of the film.

"All of us have had a situation in high school where they felt violated in some way, whether a girlfriend cheated on them, or a friend betrayed them. It may be minor at the time, but this pain manifests itself in other ways, and many people go through their lives unconsciously trying to prove to their high school how good they are. It's this response to pain that we see on screen, and because the pain is so strong, it's arrested these peoples ability to love."

He went on to discuss his distaste for the studio system and the twenty-million dollar paycheque issue, and he spoke often of his testicles.

Day 4:

2:30 p.m.: Press conference for *Jakob the Lie*

Due to the importance of the talent attending this conference, it was moved from the Park Hyatt Hotel to the Four Seasons Ballroom.

The moderator announced the arrival of the talent, led by Robin Williams, Liev Schreiber, and director Peter Kasovitz. Ready with my camera, I started taking shots. The photographers around me were ready to kill for their shots, and I held my own against them. We sat down, and the conference began.

The obvious question concerning the similarities between *Jakob* and the other recent holocaust film, *Life is Beautiful*, was asked, to which Williams responded by stating that both films began at the same time, but "[*Life is Beautiful*] is definitely a comedy, ours is a drama with moments of humour."

It was then revealed that Kasovitz was himself a holocaust survivor, and brought some of those experiences to the film.

Then it was my turn, and I had a personal goal to achieve.

In front of the international press, I asked Williams if he would permit me to address him as "Oh Captain my Captain," which suggested to him the effect *Dead Poets Society* had on me. To this he replied, "You have to stand on the chair."

In disbelief, I stood on top of the chair and readdressed him. As he began to blush, I returned to business, and asked how he managed to stay so successful in light of the changing studio system. He explained how he keeps his distance from Hollywood, and that helps him to have a clear perspective on the industry, and not get wrapped up in competition.

He then went on to explain his fascination with dark, unconventional characters,



photo/Richie Mehta

Above:
Robin Williams and Liev Schreiber pose for photos at the Four Seasons Hotel.
Left: Kevin Spacey ignores Annette Bening in *American Beauty*.

film sets itself up as a mystery, where one has to guess what these people did in their childhood that affected them so much. However, it turns out to be a mediocre drama. If it was more genre-defined, it would be more effective.

10:30 a.m.: Lunch at Swiss Chalet. I leave pissed-off because they forgot to give me a finger bowl.

11 a.m.: Press screening for *Breakfast of Champions*.

The film is an adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut Jr.'s best-selling novel about a car salesman, a small deranged town, a brilliant sci-fi author, and the meaning of life.

The problem lay in putting Vonnegut's psychedelic novel, which has so many characters and non-linear elements, on screen. But director Alan Rudolph and star Bruce Willis manage to get across the madness and intensity of the novel.

In fact, it is Willis, as well as the head-spinning turns by Nick Nolte as a transvestite, and Albert Finney as a washed-up, brilliant sci-fi author who knows the meaning of life, who carry the film.

Willis plays Dwayne Hoover, a car salesman in a small town who wakes up

Day 3:

6 a.m.: Wake up to get to the press screening at 8:30 a.m.

Miss my train. Damn.

Make it to the theatre with two minutes to spare. Every journalist except me has a cup of coffee.

8:30 a.m.: Press screening for *Simpatico*.

Simpatico, starring Jeff Bridges, Nick

haven't lived until you've discussed "choking the chicken" with Kevin Spacey.

A festive ending

continued from page 8

and when he takes chances with films, such as *Dead Poets Society* or *The Fisher King*, he gets more out of those experiences.

After the conference ended, and I thought about exactly what I had just done in front of the world, I realized something very important: I was now a member of the Dead Poets Society! What a day.

Day 5: My final day at the festival.

6 p.m.: Press conference for *Anywhere But Here*

Touting their new character drama, *Anywhere But Here*, the two actors and director Wang appear to be lively and, unlike a lot of other talent, happy to be here.

Sarandon, who came across as extremely intelligent and charming, addressed issues of parenting and how her own experiences helped her prepare for the role. Portman, when asked to compare working in theatre, to large technical projects like *Star Wars*, and to character dramas, explained how different each experience is. "Working on technical projects is more of a crew film. When you're in theatre, you're an actor and you're the centre...but technical films are more collaborative. It's kinda cool [to learn from] people who are smart with computers and science and math."

The Film Festival was now nearing its end, with only a handful of screenings, two galas, and one press conference remaining. I was to have none of it, though.

Many may criticize my decision to cover this aspect of the Film Festival - the glamour, the stars, and the galas that would appear in theatres within weeks. Why not cover the smaller films that will never see distribution?

Two reasons: I figured an encounter with Robin Williams might increase the readership of *The Medium*. But more importantly, it was my attempt to dissect the idea of celebrity, by encountering them in a press arena. What is it about these people that makes them so great? Is it their humanity? Some stars help the needy. Is it their ability to empathize with you through their work? They couldn't care less about you, and rightly so. Is it the fact that they are larger than life? Accessible to everyone? As cool as we want to be? Why is it a plate of food on film always looks better than on your table?

It isn't the actors that are important, but how we react to them. By placing them on this pedestal, we create a hierarchy in which they are the top, and we are below them. The fact is they're human. They excrete, they get hungry, and they sleep. If a hurricane approached them, it would kill them as easily as anyone else. With that in mind, why is it that nature doesn't discriminate, but people do?

Listening to Mumford director Lawrence Kasdan, for example, speak on relationships earlier in the festival, I found that he had a great insight into people's relationships and communication. The fact that these insights came from his mouth at first made me revere him more than I would others. But in retrospect, my close friend Laura has an even greater insight into relationships. Is it the fact that Kasdan is a more sought after commodity to the world than my friend Laura that makes his opinion more valid? Most people would unconsciously agree with this, having not thought about this aspect of celebrity. But Laura's opinion is more valid to me, because she is more precious to me. Kasdan is a public figure who everyone would like to get a piece of. But in the reality, it's our close relationships that matter most, not our distant worships.

- Additional reporting by Jennifer Matotek

Broadway smash hits Toronto

Critics and audiences everywhere were hailing Sam Mendes' Broadway production of *Cabaret* as one of the greatest revivals in musicals of our time. With all this hype, one enters the play pondering whether it will actually deliver.

THEATRE/REVIEW

By Richie Mehta

The production begins with a Cabaret-style performance by singers and dancers in a 1930s Berlin nightclub. A young American writer, Clifford Bradshaw (a solid Rick Holmes), is visiting the city in an attempt to get inspiration for his next novel.

Cabaret singer and prostitute Sally Bowles (marquee player Joely Fisher) enters his life, and Clifford quickly falls for her.

These two fall in love and attempt to bring their very different worlds together (Clifford with his homegrown American ideals, and Sally with her painful German truths). The musical is interspersed with cabaret dance numbers, most of which are catchy and

agreeable. As well, there's the Emcee, played by a stealthy Norbert Leo Butz, who acts as a link between the audience and the characters on stage.

The increasingly volatile political climate of the time makes things even more interesting.

The most important asset of the musical is its mood. The set design has the orchestra on top of the stage, all dressed in S & M leather. They are in plain view, and are in fact meant to play a very specific role, as they are similar to the Emcee in their anonymity and constant involvement. Even the lights that cover the interior of the Princes of Wales Theatre add to the effect of the flashy under-

ground nightclub-like setting, and set up the appropriately dark mood.

With these creepy devices, one gets the sense while watching the cabaret numbers that they are witnessing sinful, almost taboo events, and should not be there; however, this was the intent of the production.

With the increasing power activity of the Third Reich, the plummeting German economy, and the demoralized spirits of the citizens, Germany is headed for hell.

Yet despite this, the Cabaret nightclub continues. People still come, and they can't

get enough of it. It's this contrast between the madness of the people and the surrounding world, and the piecemeal sanity of the performers that makes the play so good.

Some of the musical numbers, although catchy, are not as memorable as other established musicals, but *Cabaret* does have its moments.

In fact, much of the play is centered on the performers' dancing, and not simply on Sally and Clifford. This kind of audience involvement makes the play much more engaging.

One feels as if they are in a Berlin nightclub, witnessing everything. One even sees the subtle changes in the Emcee throughout the play, as he starts off funny and a little obnoxious, and ends up more serious and probing.

If you seek a show that sells itself as a mainstream musical, but has the vibrance and raw energy of the independent spirit, you need not look further than *Cabaret*.

Performances are at the Princess of Wales theatre, until October 26, 1999.



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SPORTS

UTM opens door to sports medicine clinic

Free therapy for students offered

BY ADAM GILES

On September 14, UTM's new sports medicine clinic opened its door to students requiring athletic therapy. The Centre for Physical Education announced that the MacIntosh Sports Medicine Clinic will provide free therapy for UTM students with sport or exercise-related injuries.

This past Tuesday, the clinic, which is sponsored by the Faculty of Physical Education & Health on the St. George

campus, became the newest facility available to UTM students. Dan Chagnon, the sole athletic therapist at the facility, said that it will be much more convenient for UTM students to have athletic therapy services offered at their own campus. "Students here won't have to go all the way downtown for therapy, as they have in the past," said Chagnon. "And with the student population here, I think a lot of people will take advantage of this."

Andrew Bellerby, programme coordinator for the Centre for Physical Education and head coach of UTM rowing said, "this is an incredible service for us to have here. Now people with injuries from intramural sports here don't have to go all the way downtown. As a matter of

fact, a bunch of students in the rowing programme are taking advantage of it."

The clinic, which is located across from the gymnasium in the South Building, is a free service provided exclusively to UTM students. Chagnon pointed out that he is an athletic therapist, not a physiotherapist, and emphasized that the clinic's main priority is sport or athletic-related injuries. "Any student is welcome, but we will not be dealing with motor-vehicle accident or worker's compensation injuries," said Chagnon. "We don't have the administrative support for those types of injuries."

The facility, which is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 7 p.m., is

equipped with a mobile hydraulic lifting table, electrical modalities, wobble boards, an ultrasound machine, and several other pieces of therapeutic equipment.

"I have enough equipment here to treat the same injuries as downtown, even though we only have a space of 13 feet by 18 feet," said Chagnon. "Our equipment here is actually newer than downtown, but I do a lot of manual, hands-on therapy."

Chagnon explained that "the clinic was brought to UTM via task force recommendation."

He said that Mary Ann Piskalnetis, UTM's athletics director, who was a part of the DAR task force saw no reason UTM shouldn't have a clinic since St.

George has had one for years. "We feel this is an essential service for students," Chagnon said.

"Any athletics facility should have sports medicine attached to it," added Bellerby. "We wanted to give students something that they deserve. Students pay all this money already, so I think this is a way of giving something back to them."

Chagnon said the clinic, which is no longer affiliated with OHIP because Ontario clinics are getting rid of the billing code, is subsidized mostly by student's incidental athletics fees. "We didn't want students to have to pay," said Chagnon.

The MacIntosh Sports Clinic opened satellite clinics at UTM and Scarborough, which will be assessed to see if eight hours per week is sufficient for each campus. "It's a trial for this year and depending on demand, we may be given more hours per week next year," said Chagnon.

Bellerby said that he sees lots of room for growth in UTM's newest athletics facility and students will likely take full advantage of it. "After word gets out, I think usage of the clinic will be very high."

Students who wish to take advantage of the sports medicine clinic need a referral from UTM's Health Services or the St. George campus MacIntosh clinic. Appointments, which can be made at the Fit Stop or by calling 828-3714, will be half an hour in length and treatment can carry on indefinitely. "This is different from OHIP clinics, which have a maximum of 20 visits," said Chagnon.

"Any athletics facility should have sports medicine attached to it"
— Andrew Bellerby

University of Toronto at Mississauga

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Appointments can be made at the Faculty of Physical Education & Health Services or the main campus on the St. George Campus

photo/Nuvera Mirza

Athletic therapist, Dan Chagnon, stands in front of UTM's sports therapy clinic.

Leap of faith



A UTM student soars through the air to catch a piece of plastic at last week's try-outs for Interfaculty Ultimate Frisbee. Don't look down, or you'll lose your teeth when you face-plant. You want Ultimate frisbee? Stop by the Medium office for a taste.

Bellerby heads UTM rowing

Experienced coach pushing for "opportunity of excellence for students"

BY ADAM GILES

Some people exercise to stay fit, some exercise to have fun, and some exercise for the competition. UTM's rowing programme covers all of these bases, by offering three levels of difficulty for students. The Intercollegiate programme offers competition at the novice or varsity level, and the Learn-to-Row programme offers recreational rowing.

Andrew Bellerby, a UTM alumnus who was on the rowing team as a student, is the head coach of UTM rowing. Bellerby, who graduated from UTM in 1995, won a silver medal in 1997 at the Ilan International Collegiate Invitational Regatta in Taiwan. He also won the Lightweight Singles title at the Royal Canadian Henley in 1993. With the experienced Bellerby heading-up UTM's rowing crew, newcomers to the sport have an idea of what to aspire to.

"Rowing isn't all about sport; it teaches time management, persistence, commitment, and work ethic"

— Andrew Bellerby

The Intercollegiate Programme is only available to full-time UTM students and is broken down into two levels, novice and varsity. Bellerby said that both novice and varsity rowing require the same level of commitment. "A student in the novice programme will have to go to the early practices, just like students in the varsity programme," said Bellerby.

The novice level is for students with no rowing experience, but who want to compete in the sport. Novice rowers learn the basic technical aspects of the sport, such as the rowing stroke.

"The novice level is a training ground for the varsity programme. Students can see how much practice it takes to be able to compete," said Bellerby.

Rowing is UTM's only varsity sport. At the varsity level, students must commit to the team for one year and have rowing experience. If UTM Varsity crews fare well against teams from the St. George campus, they will compete in the OUA championships on October 30 and the Canadian University

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Yasin Ozturk climbs UTM rowing ranks

When a pastime becomes a passion, your enjoyment for what you're doing becomes overpowering. UTM student Yasin Ozturk, who is starting into his second year with the rowing programme, experienced such a transformation. In his third-year of a Political Science and Philosophy double major, Ozturk is consumed by rowing. "Rowing has completely become a passion," he said.

Ozturk is now a varsity rower after having competed at the novice level last year. He is also involved in ball

hockey, shinny hockey, ice skating, and soccer, but he spends most of his time in rowing. "With all the training

Faces of UTM

BY ADAM GILES

for rowing, I don't have much time to pick up intramural sports," said Ozturk. "There's no way around it. If you want to be competitive, you always have to practice."

Ozturk is proud of his performance at regattas during the summer. "This

summer I managed to rack up a few modest gold medals," he said. "And in order to row varsity (this year), I rowed at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta (the largest regatta in North America). We got blown out of the water because the other crews all had international experience, but it was a great experience just to be there and see what to aspire to."

He did well in a pair earlier this summer, despite being thrown together with his partner at the last minute: "In



photo/courtesy Andrew Bellerby

UTM rowers take to the water.

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Bellerby leads rowers

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Championships on November 6-7 in St. Catharines. "The varsity scene isn't for everyone," said Bellerby. "But rowing isn't all about sport; it teaches time management, persistence, commitment, and work ethic. Students can get this through either the novice or the varsity programme. Our goal is to get people to excel all the way up through the novice and varsity levels and then to the national level. I'm really pushing for an opportunity of excellence for students."

Bellerby, who started at the novice level in his second year at UTM, emphasized how important practices are to the sport of rowing. "Rowing is so technical. It requires hours and hours of practice to master," he said. "Volume is a big part of the training and actually, rowing requires more training than any other varsity sport because it is so technical."

Bellerby is happy with this year's coaching crew. UTM rowing boasts eight coaches, including Bellerby, who take care of the intercollegiate programme. "The coaching staff this year is incredible," said Bellerby.

The entry period for both the novice and the varsity programmes is over but Bellerby encourages anyone who is still interested in competitive rowing to contact him.

Students who don't want to row competitively may join the Learn-to-Row programme, which is recreational. "It also requires much less commitment," said Bellerby. "It is an introduction to the sport and you don't have to give up all your mornings. The goal is to get people involved in rowing."

Unlike the intercollegiate programme, Learn-to-Row is community-based, so it isn't just full-time students who can participate. In addition, this programme is run by varsity athletes, so recreational rowers are learning from people who have experience. "Running the Learn-to-Row programme this way develops leaders in our varsity programme," said Bellerby.

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Yasin's passion for rowing propels his success

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my first race of this summer I rowed the first time in a pair, which is tough to balance and row efficiently," said Ozturk. "But we managed to win the race by six or seven boat lengths and we had a lot of fun. I think we did relatively well that day, considering we just got thrown together. We didn't fall behind the pairs that have been together for a while; we were always right there in the pack."

Ozturk said that the experience and thrill of rowing makes every practice worthwhile: "It's absolutely worth all the training and effort. Once you're out on the water, you're happy that you went to all those 5 a.m. practices. Plus when you're rowing, you're working out and having fun at the same time, so it's worth the time you put into it."

Ozturk said that love for competitive rowing will come naturally to determined people. "Rowing is a unique

sport. You can go into rowing in first year and be able to compete because, pardon the pun, everyone is in the same boat," said Ozturk. "You have to like the water to be able to enjoy it, but for everyone involved, it's a constant learning process. It's never perfect. People that have been doing it for years are still looking for ways to improve. You just have to be consistent in your work ethic. There's no reason why anyone can't pick up rowing. I've never met anyone that didn't like row-

ing. In my experience, if people quit it's because they didn't like the early practices, not because they didn't like rowing."

Ozturk hopes to excel at the varsity level and to take rowing as far as he can. "I'm hoping to stick with the varsity

programme, whether in a single or in a pair," he said.

Ozturk has his sights set on a gold medal at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. He sees no limit to what he can accomplish. Even though he is on the water he says, "The sky's the limit."



Varsity rower Yasin Ozturk (inset and far right above), who has developed a passion for rowing, won "a few modest gold medals," and believes there is no limit to what he can accomplish.

photos/courtesy Andrew Bellerby

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